

THE LAST FRONTIER

by Bob Hill, The Edmonton Journal



The True Vision Of The North?

A FIVE-PART SERIES REPRINTED FROM THE JOURNAL

Bob Hill, The Journal's northern editor, has talked to the people of the north, and to people in government and business concerning the north . . . the people who know its many problems.

After covering "The Last Frontier" for more than two years, Mr. Hill is in a position to interpret the "true vision" of the North.

This series of articles, reprinted from The Journal, relate Bob Hill's factual impressions of a land he loves, but a land that a reporter of his prize-winning ability can look at realistically.

Stripped of romantic trimmings, looking at basic economics, rather than get-rich-quick dreams, Mr. Hill's five-part series paints the true picture of the North.

Fiction and fact are hard to separate . . . too much fiction has been written about the North. In this series The Journal attempts to point out the problems that really do exist. Bob Hill expresses an informed opinion on developments taking place and those about to come. It is a realistic series of articles.

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The Edmonton Journal



ROMANTIC MYTH OF THE FROZEN NORTH
... development now, after years of neglect

Cold Facts Dim 'Romance' Of Canada's Vast North

August 17, 1964

By BOB HILL
Of The Journal

It's time we stopped kidding ourselves about the north.

For too long we've thought only about the "romance" of the country — not about its problems and challenges.

And too often we've seen only "visions" and other apparitions — instead of seeing the cold, hard country for what it really is.

Fact and myth about the north are two entirely different things.

That's my assessment after two years of travelling across the huge land that makes up Canada's Last Frontier.

By plane and boat, bus and car, train and motorized toboggan, I've covered about 150,000 miles of the region lying north of the 60th parallel — the Yukon, Northwest Territories, and northern Quebec.

SHARED CHRISTMAS FEAST

Since starting in the spring of 1962, I've:

- Shared a Christmas feast of rice, nuts, and honey with a church-full of smiling Eskimos at Cambridge Bay on bleak Victoria Island;
- Travelled all but a short distance along the 1,700-mile Mac-

kenzie River system, from historic Fort McMurray, Alta, to the tongue-twisting settlement of Tuktoyaktuk on the Arctic coast;

- Watched a court dispense justice in a small school at Igloodik in the eastern Arctic;

- Toured the gold mines in the Yellowknife area, the silver mining complex at Elsa in the Yukon, the lead-zinc mining development at Pine Point, and the tungsten mine townsite near the N.W.T. Yukon border;

- Visited the federal government's costly and impressive schools and student hostels;

- Called at most settlements from Dawson City to Pangnirtung, and talked to hundreds of northern residents.

When I started my northern assignment I was optimistic about the Country and its future.

Here was the continent's last major undeveloped area on the threshold of big things.

At that time I wrote: "... the area finds itself the focal point of nation-wide attention and interest.

"Government and industry are pouring in millions of development dollars. Schools are being constructed, roads and railway built, mines developed,

communications expanded, oil and gas wells sunk, businesses established. Settlers are moving in.

"Gradually, the Last Frontier is being opened."

ECONOMIC BREAKTHROUGHS

Today, two years and 150,000 miles later, my optimism has faded.

Big strides have been made in the north in the last 20-odd years, particularly in health, education, and housing — after years of complete neglect.

There have also been economic breakthroughs — the Alaska Highway, the Mackenzie and Yellowknife highways, and now the Great Slave Lake Railway, which is under construction.

But overall little headway has been made in solving the problems that have plagued the north from earliest settlement times and held back its development.

Living costs remain high (fresh foods are luxuries in most places, if available); transportation burdensome (major roadways total less than 1,500 miles); climate inhospitable (it takes four times as much heat to keep a house in Aklavik at 65 degrees year round as it does in Toronto.

And new problems are cropping up, with no immediate solution in sight.

One is the liquor problem, especially among the Indians and Eskimos. Another is the welfare problem. And then there is the question of what is going to happen to hundreds of Eskimo and Indian children once they leave classrooms and look for jobs in a land where there are few employment opportunities.

The challenge posed by the north would tax even the most dedicated of nations trying to open a new frontier. But Canada and Canadians are far from dedicated about the north. In fact they are indifferent.

ANXIOUS FOR DEVELOPMENT

For most Canadians there is really no pressing need to develop the north. We aren't over crowded in the south by any means, and we don't desperately need any raw materials from the Yukon or Northwest Territories.

And who wants to put up with those long, cold winters? Southern Canada's climate is bad enough.

The government, of course, is anxious for development, if only to recover money invested and help pay the bills for so-

cial welfare measures. And jobs will have to be created for the youngsters in school today. But in a country like Canada that is crying from one end to the other for federal assistance, the remote northland is low in priority.

The land beyond the 60th is an odd sort of frontier.

As one northerner summed it up: "This is a frontier with twentieth century technology."

Included are aircraft, cars, radios, hi-fi sets, washer-dryer units, and even a bit of television.

The north today is primarily a federal government preserve where Ottawa participates in everything from building roads to hauling garbage, and the effect is stifling. Probably no other region in Canada has more civil servants per capita, with the exception of Ottawa itself.

What is the future for this country of 1,500,000 square miles and 41,000 people (more than one-third of Canada's area with less than one-half of one per cent of the total population)?

It may be destined one day to play a big part in Canada and the Canadian economy. But that day seems decades away.

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Nobody Knows Potential Of Canada's 'Storehouse'

August 18, 1964

BY BOB HILL
Of The Journal

Cliches abound when it comes to describing Canada's north-land but none is more common than "vast mineral storehouse."

This one probably has been in circulation since the first white man returned from a trip north of the 60th parallel.

But how true is it? What are the minerals? And in what quantity do they exist?

Strangely, nobody seems to know the answers to these questions. Not even the man most directly concerned.

"I don't think we have today an inventory of resources worth the name," says Hon. Arthur Laing, minister of northern affairs, and national resources. "I'm all in favor of putting more money into surveys."

A northern mining official is just as much in the dark about the storehouse.

NOBODY KNOWS

"Nobody really knows what's up here," says mining consultant Norman Byrne, who has been operating in the Yellowknife region for 24 years. "We have no idea of the potential of the north. There has never been an economic survey."

Thousands of square miles have never been examined, even cursorily.

A move to remedy this situation is now under way. The federal department of mines and technical surveys is conducting a 12-year aeromagnetic survey across the north and parts of the provinces to locate promising areas for mineral deposits.

There is no question about the Northwest Territories and Yukon being mineralized — only a question as to the extent. Over the years deposits of gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, uranium, nickel, iron, tungsten, asbestos, oil, gas and other minerals have been found.

But no matter how richly endowed the country may prove to be, successful exploitation is far from assured.

STAKED IN '98

Back in 1898, for example, the first claims were staked on the huge lead-zinc deposits at Pine Point on the south shore of Great Slave Lake. But only now 66 years later, are these minerals being brought into production.

The opening of Pine Point proves to what extent the federal government must contribute to private developments in the north to transform mineral deposits into operating mines.

One of the main drawbacks to developing Pine Point was the lack of practical transportation to carry concentrates to outside smelters. To overcome this Ottawa agreed to spend \$86,000,000 for the Great Slave Lake Railway, now under construction, which will link Pine Point with Northern Alberta Railways' Peace River line.

HYDRO PROJECT

To supply power for the mine-mill operation the federal government is investing \$9,120,000 in a hydro-electric project on the Talston River.

And to assist further, Ottawa is spending about \$2,000,000 on a 53-mile all-weather highway from the Mackenzie Highway into the mine site.

The total bill for the country as a whole: About \$97,000,000.

And what will Pine Point mean? Permanent employment

for 200. A new town of 1,000 to 2,000. Annual mineral output of \$21,500,000 — two-thirds of the north's present total.

But it takes more than government participation to assure success for northern mining projects.

One of the biggest iron ore deposits in the world — an estimated 20 billion tons — lies undeveloped along the Yukon-N.W.T. border near the Arctic Circle. Whether it will be developed within the next two or three decades is still in doubt.

The remoteness of the location poses such cost problems that the ore may not be able to compete successfully in the world market.

Originally it was thought that the ore could be sold to Japan. But subsequent discovery of far more accessible ore in Australia has considerably diminished hopes for the northern development.

Remoteness holds back development of other northern minerals (gold in the Contwoyo Lake region, for one) — and the search for them.

Why bother with northern Canada minerals when the same ones can be obtained far more easily and cheaply from other areas in the world?

Promising iron ore deposits have been found on Baffin Island. But can they compete? That is being decided now.

A study by the department of mines and technical surveys showed that mining in the western side of the N.W.T. adds \$4 per ton to the cost of a similar development in Alberta.

Transportation has always been a key factor. Construction of the Great Slave Lake Railway, for example, could bring into production a half-dozen small base metal deposits around the lake which have been left until now as uneconomical.

HANDFUL OF MINES

As of now, the north has only a handful of mining operations — four gold mines in the Yellowknife area, placer gold mining at Dawson City, a silver mining complex at Elsa, and a tungsten mine at a new N.W.T. settlement named after the mineral.

Together with the Norman Wells oil field (1,700 barrels a day, these mines gave the north a mineral output of \$29,800,000 last year — about one one-hundredth of the Canadian mineral total of \$3,003,410,000.

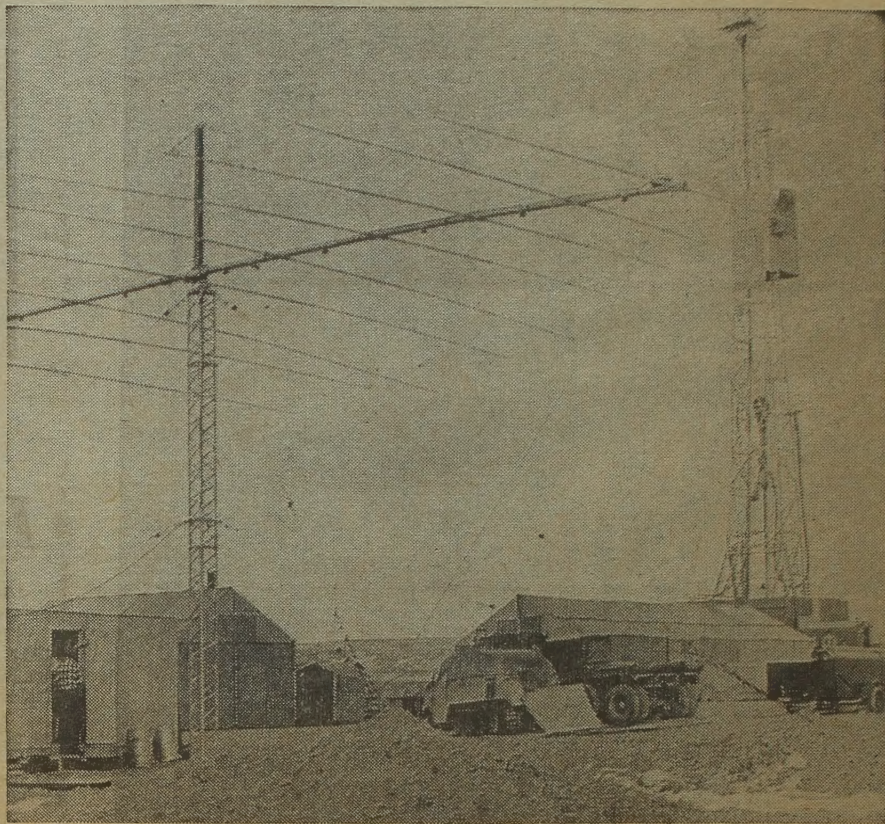
The future for oil and gas developments in the north is every bit as uncertain as for the other minerals.

From 1953 to 1962 companies drilled 235 wells in the Yukon and N.W.T., spent \$67,000,000, and found only nine scattered gas wells.

The Arctic islands, which geologists feel are promising for oil deposits, so far have produced nothing but three dry holes.

Non-mineral or renewable resources are expected to play only a minor role in northern development.

The farming and commercial fishing potential of the Yukon is practically nil. However, in the N.W.T. there are almost 2,000,000 acres of arable land (with about half rated as good) which could open up same day, and the commercial fishing output of 6,250,000 pounds last year is less than half of the estimated



OIL DRILLING CAMP ON CORNWALLIS ISLAND
... nothing but three dry holes

potential of 15,000,000 pounds annually.

Productive forested land in the two territories totals 76,000 square miles. But development is going to be limited to local use or have to await for a better competitive situation.

FUR TRADE SLIPS

Fur production, once so im-

portant in the north, is slipping. In 1962 output stood at \$1,000,000 — half of what it was a decade earlier.

The best non-mineral hope for the north is tourism, especially in scenic Yukon.

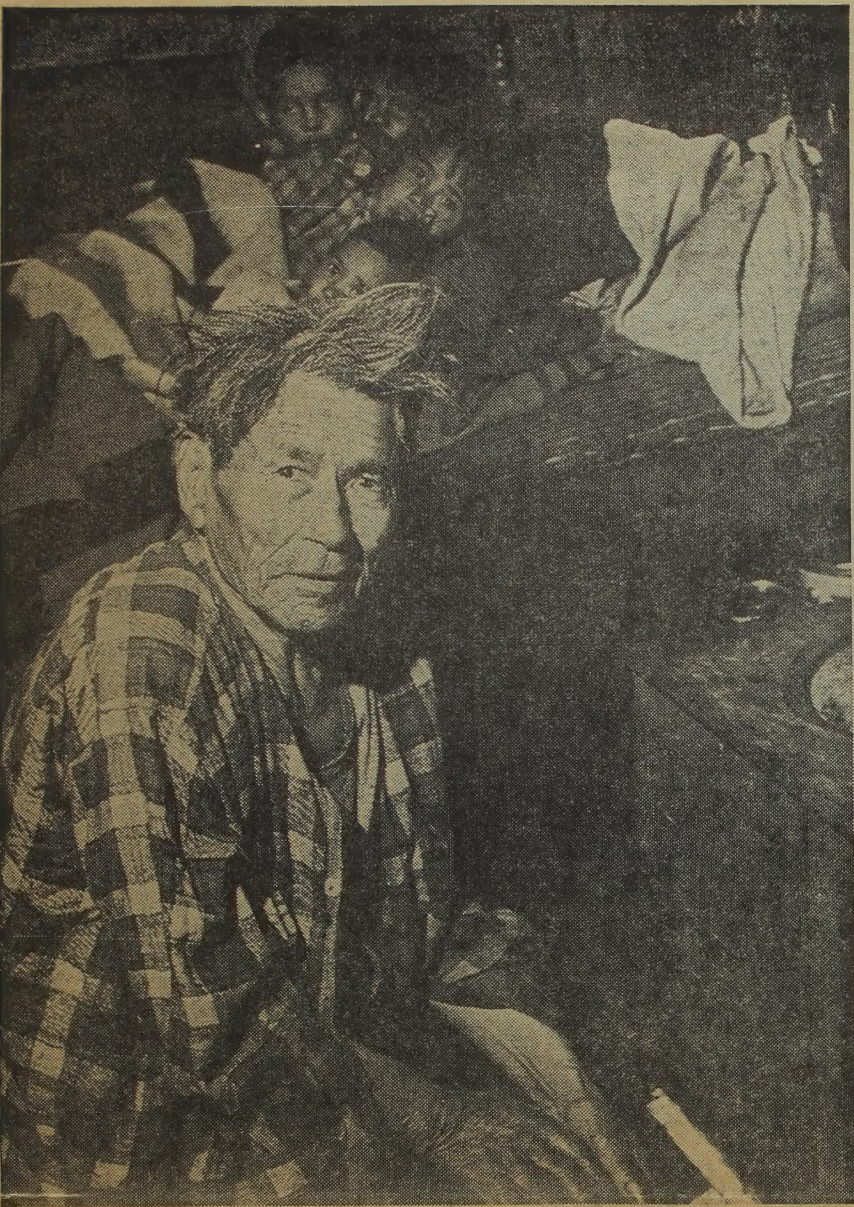
But this business is just starting to get off the ground in both the Yukon and N.W.T., and to

become a major contributor toward northern development it will require government assistance just like other projects beyond the 60th. Assistance in the order of the umpteen millions of dollars is required to pave the Alaska Highway.

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TYPICAL SCHOOLHOUSE MEETING
... through an interpreter



THE FACE OF POVERTY
... many north natives face bleak future



MAIN STREET OF WHITEHORSE, YUKON
... Alaska Highway point, Edmonton 1,280 miles

Hill's Beat: 1,500,000 Sq. Miles;

His beat is the "last frontier".

It is probably the largest and most unusual beat in the world.

Bob Hill, The Edmonton Journal's northern editor, covers an area of 1,500,000 square miles across the vast expanse of Canada north of the 60th parallel. The distant reaches of the Yukon and Northwest Territories from Alaska to the Hudson Bay are his responsibility.

The Last Frontier was instituted as a regular feature by Basil Dean in one of his first moves upon assuming the post of publisher of The Journal in 1962. Mr. Dean quickly realized that The Journal had an obligation to "cover" the north country and a responsibility to educate readers to the problems and conditions of northern Canada.

In covering his beat, Mr. Hill has travelled more than 150,000 miles in 2½ years. The greatest part of that travel was by plane (hitching a ride here and there where scheduled flights were not available), but Bob has also travelled by boat, barge, bus, bombardier snowmobile, car, train and motorized toboggan.

He has traversed the Mackenzie River system from northern Alberta to its Arctic Ocean outlet, travelled a great portion of the Alaska Highway system and the Mackenzie Highway to Great Slave Lake.

He has seen the coast of Baffin Island, Resolute Bay and the tip of Victoria Island.

In the spring

As a result of a crash scene where they found their light plane, The Journal's model of persistence

Hill is 32 years old, a graduate of the University of Alberta. He joined The Journal's assignment covered and served for a brief

The North is



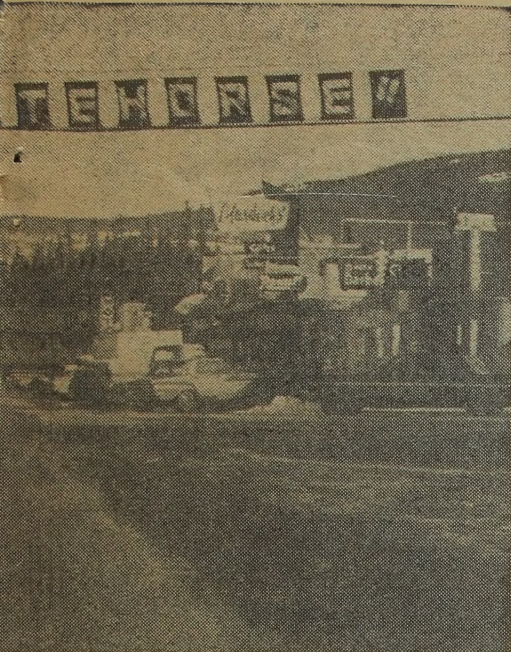
SYMBOL OF THREE RACES AT INUVIK
... Eskimo, Indian and White



ESKIMO YOUNGSTERS AT FORT RESOLUTION
... welfare keeps them well-clothed



STEEL
... G



ON
miles

11,000 Inhabitants

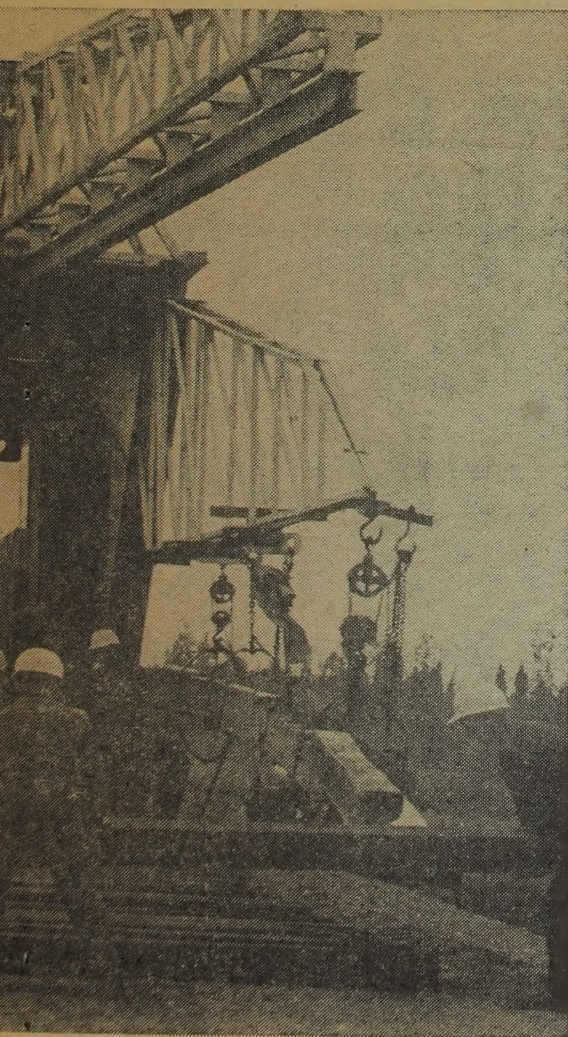
the western regions of the Yukon and the barrens of Cornwall on the east. Whitehorse, Dawson City, Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk and Cape Dorset have all been visited by The Journal's nomad Christmas, 1962 at Cambridge Bay, N.W.T. on the southern

of 1964 Bob gained national recognition.

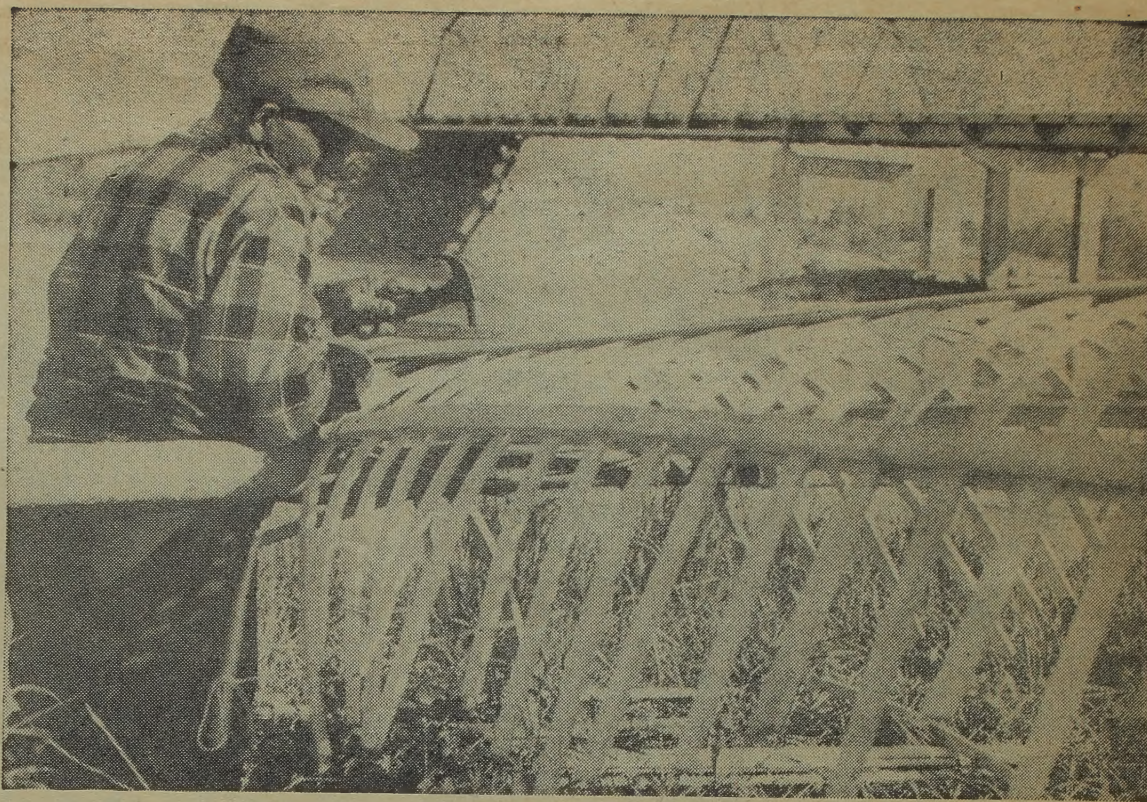
his permanent assignment, he was within a few hours of the Ralph Flores and Helen Klaben were found alive, 50 days after they had crashed in northern B.C. He was selected for a National Award for his coverage of this story, termed by judges "a hard and hard work".

of age, was born in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, and is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Commerce degree. He joined The Journal in 1956 as a cub reporter, and prior to his northern assignment he had a variety of beats, including the police courts and city hall.

his beat. It is Canada's fascinating "Last Frontier".



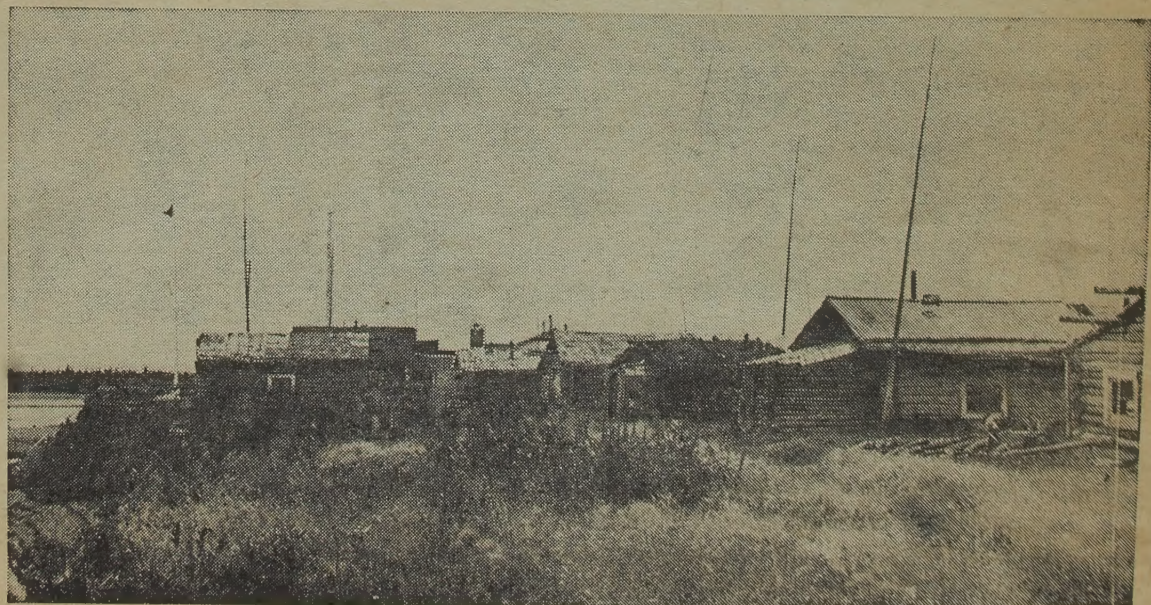
LINKS NORTH AND SOUTH
at Slave Railway construction



PROGRESS IN THE NORTH — YET TIME STANDS STILL
... Indian builds canoe near Frank Channel Bridge, N.W.T.



TRANSPORTATION REMAINS MAJOR PROBLEM IN NORTH
... bouncing across country near the Arctic coast



EDITH JOSIE'S "OLD CROW," IN SUMMER
... a native Yukon community north of the Arctic Circle

Drink, Progress, Inertia Hurts Indians, Eskimos

August 19, 1964

By BOB HILL
Of THE Journal

One question persists two years after I began travelling across the north.

What is going to happen to the Eskimos and Indians?

And a second question follows hard on the heels of the first.

Does anybody really care?

Some scenes remain etched on memory.

● Two Eskimos in a stupor drinking beer in a dingy hotel in a remote settlement.

● The nightly outpouring of wobbly Indians from the hotel pub in another community.

● A druggist almost bragging about his sales of shaving lotion to Indians.

● Indians and Eskimos shuffling along the main street at Inuvik, leaving behind the glossy civil service section and heading back to their simple homes on the "other side" of that community's segregating utilities line.

● Natives of both races loafing around settlements day after day, fit and able but idle.

HEADING DOWNHILL

Isolated cases, maybe. But my overall impression about the residents of the north is that the whites are doing okay while the 16,000 natives are heading downhill.

Drink is one cause of the natives' undoing.

The introduction of full drinking privileges to the north's Indians and Eskimos ranks was one of the biggest blunders ever made by northern affairs and territorial councils in a land long on government error.

The natives must have full rights as Canadian citizens — that's how the argument ran.

NO RIGHT TO VOTE

But the N.W.T. council and northern affairs don't lose any sleep over the fact that Eskimos in the eastern Arctic and in the Arctic islands don't have the right to vote in territorial elections; they can drink all they want but they can't have any say in their own affairs.

The governments also don't have any qualms about taking in liquor revenue, which last year in the N.W.T. hit a record \$985,572 from sales totalling \$2,153,287.

However, drink only accounts for part of the natives' plight today.

For them, the north country is in the midst of social upheaval.

BOUND TO SETTLEMENTS

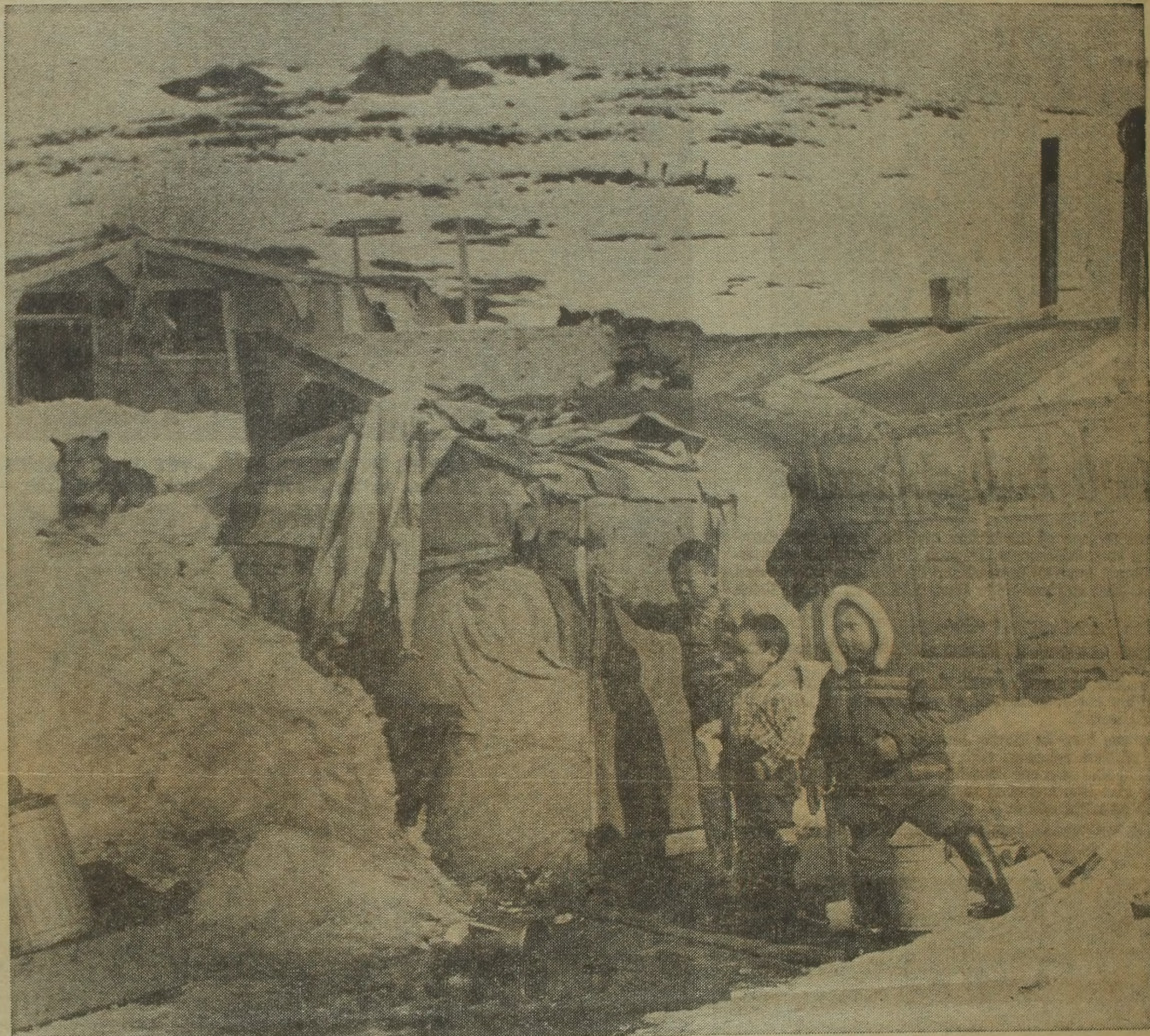
Once they moved about freely like nomads, going where the hunting and fishing were good. Now they are bound to settlements so that their children can attend the new schools built by the federal government.

And now they are unable in many cases to support their families properly from the limited resources around each community. So they turn to the government for assistance — welfare.

At the same time the children are heading for an uncertain future — probably more welfare.

FEW WILL FIND JOBS

When they leave classrooms only a small percentage will find jobs in the territories and a smaller number yet will get



ESKIMO YOUNGSTERS OUTSIDE SHACK HOME AT FROBISHER BAY
... they face an uncertain future

work outside. The others, with only mid-grade school education — who knows what will become of them?

Many of them already must think that the world — or at least the government — owes them a living. At the modern school hostels in the north they are fed, clothed and otherwise cared for by a benevolent big brother.

The welfare philosophy is spreading among the natives, young and old. (In 1962-63 welfare operating costs in the north totalled more than \$2,250,000.)

There are two common answers used to dismiss the whole native problem.

One is to say: "This transition takes two or three generations."

WRITTEN OFF

This assumes that two or three generations of natives can be written off like so much inventory gone bad — and without ill effects on succeeding generations.

The other, which comes from northerners themselves, is to say: "You have the same kind of problem with Indians in the south."

True enough. But the reasoning seems to be that because southern natives have deteriorated in the white man's civilization there is no reason why northern natives shouldn't go

the same way. Nobody seems to think there is any lesson to be learned from the mistakes made in the provinces.

SURROUNDED BY INERTIA

Complacency and inertia surround the native problem.

Three years after welfare costs skyrocketed at Fort Resolution — an Indian and Metis settlement — the federal government finally is getting around to sponsoring a study of the possibility of co-operatives in the district.

Even the churches seem slow in coping with the situation, although field missionaries are well aware of the native's decline. At a recent national meeting one Canadian church decided to form a youth corps to assist backward peoples — and then made arrangements to send it off to Africa.

But the picture is not all black.

CO-OPERATIVES SET UP

Thanks to northern affairs' industrial division, co-operatives have been set up in several Eskimo communities to help natives make better use of resources and thus rely less on welfare.

Settlements like Cape Dorset on Baffin Island and Resolute Bay stand out as examples of Eskimos adjusting favorably to a changing way of life. These

particular natives seem to have the best of both worlds.

But overall the adjustment is far from favorable.

The white man has moved in to the north and changed the

whole way of life. It is up to him to make sure that the two native races aren't ruined as a result.

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HBC POST, LAKE HARBOR
... visitors come calling



WHAT IS A GOVERNMENT FATHER?
... colonial system of government runs the Yukon and Territories

Northwest Territories, Yukon Run By Remote Control

August 20, 1964

By BOB HILL
Of The Journal

Three years until Canada's one-hundredth anniversary as a nation... and more than one-third of the country is still without self-government.

The Yukon and Northwest Territories are the deficient areas. Ottawa claims these regions for its own and rules by remote control under a colonial system of government.

The federal government puts up most of the money to run the territories so it feels entitled to call the shots.

Under the present system each territory has its own government, in the form of a council. But the councils have little real power. They are often—and rightly—accused of just rubber stamping measures prepared by the department of northern affairs and national resources.

TWO COMMISSIONERS

Carrying out of policy is in the hands of two commissioners one for each territory, who are northern affairs civil servants. (The Yukon commissioner lives at Whitehorse while the N.W.T. commissioner's residence is in Ottawa.)

It's all very smooth administratively, but in this century and in this century it seems to be an odd way to run two territories.

One main drawback is that

northerners have little say in how their affairs are run. Councilors approve legislation but have no part in drafting it, as they would if council had something equivalent to a cabinet. The nearest thing to a cabinet post is the financial advisory committee of the Yukon council.

And without a quasi-cabinet there is no direct responsibility for legislation. If a welfare measure proves unpopular, for instance, there is no welfare minister to hold responsible.

ON A SLANT

Also, the fact that measures are drawn up in Ottawa means that they often have a departmental, rather than a truly northern, slant.

The Northwest Territories council has some special problems of its own.

Unlike the Yukon council, it is not fully elected. Five of the nine members—a majority—are appointed by the government, while the other four are voted into office.

In the last council, two of never been in the north before attending a session there and two others had only limited knowledge of the territory. Ludicrous as it seems, the council often arranges trips through the north to let the appointed members see the country they are supposed to be governing.

NOT REPRESENTATIVE

Also, the N.W.T. council does not represent the whole territory. The eastern Arctic Mainland and the Arctic Islands have no membership at all on the body that oversees their affairs, although these same regions are

enfranchised for federal elections. A smarting insult to the appointed members had Eskimos.

The lack of Eskimo representation was particularly galling during the term of the last council when, prodded by northern affairs, the council called for division of the N.W.T. into two separate territories (a move, incidentally, that would have abolished one of Canada's most historic names, "Northwest Territories"). Here was council trying to carve up the country without even consulting the eastern Arctic people about it.

Ottawa likes to pretend that the councils of the two territories are "roughly comparable" to legislatures in the provinces.

As if to reinforce this deception, councils come equipped with many of the trappings of the provincial bodies; the Yukon has its own speaker, the N.W.T. council has a mace, and both have opening addresses that might be compared to a speech from the throne.

But the analogy soon falls to pieces once the councils try to flex their muscles.

"Responsible government in the normal provincial sense is totally lacking," wrote a former Yukon official recently in an article tracing constitutional developments in the north.

Why not greater responsible government?

Ottawa has a fairly good case for withholding self-rule until the territories assume more of the financial burden, but the case is not quite as solid as the federal government makes out.

MEAGRE REVENUE

When listing the meagre territorial revenue (licences, liquor sales, and so on), the government overlooks income from minerals (oil and gas lease sales, mineral taxes). The reason is the federal government still owns the north's minerals and considers the income quite apart from territorial revenue.

But if the mineral money is considered as going towards meeting territorial expenses, residents of the N.W.T. and Yukon deserve a bigger say in government.

LET'S COMPROMISE

Nobody is suggesting self-rule immediately. But surely there is a happy medium.

One reason northerners don't press for more responsible government is that they don't want to jeopardize the federal government's financial assistance to the territories, says one student of the subject.

Another reason — and probably a more basic one — is that northerners just don't care that much about the way they are governed.

They may complain repeatedly about it but back away when the time comes to do something.

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Dream Assignment

Bob Hill, university-educated and an experienced reporter, took on a dream assignment 2½ years ago.

He went into the north to wander its byways, to see its glittering new communities and to visit in nomad communities which were hardly of this century. In his travels he won a National Newspaper Award for his reporting.

His copyrighted articles, entitled "The Last Frontier", have been followed closely by Journal readers, for Edmonton has probably a greater interest in the north than any other large Canadian centre.

Hill is continually in closer contact with the north than any other person today. His knowledge is as broad in scope as any government official. His informed opinion stems from his many travels and close contact.

'Breakthrough' Still To Come

August 21, 1964

By BOB HILL
Of The Journal

The "big breakthrough" in the Canadian north has still to come.

Maybe it will be the use of atomic energy to open ice-clogged waterways. Maybe cheap pipelines to transport ore. Or satellites that will control the weather.

But this is dream stuff, years away, and until it becomes reality, the pace of northern development is likely to remain glacially slow.

Greener pastures will attract development dollars first.

To some extent the north is just going to have to wait and hope—wait until world demand forces exploration and development of minerals beyond the 60th parallel, and hope that in the meantime substitute products are not perfected.

WORLD MARKETS

The pace could be speeded up by any disruption in world markets. Arctic islands oil exploration, for example, could be pushed if political upheavals occur in the Middle East and threaten European supplies.

Meantime the federal government can only go so far in helping make northern minerals competitive in the outside markets.

How often can it put out \$97,000,000 for a single mine, as it is doing for the Pine Point development? (The railway to Pine Point, while a big project, will not open very much of the N.W.T. Only the Great Slave Lake region will feel any significant impact from the first steel to cross the border—only a few thousand square miles out of the 1,500,000 square miles that make up the north.)

While economic development lags, the north will continue to rely heavily on the federal government to help pay the costs of education, health, welfare and administration.

And the north's affairs will continue to be run from a centre 1,000 miles south of the 60th parallel and by civil servants who have never lived in the country they are supposed to be looking after.

NEW LOOK

Now is the time for a new, long and hard look at the north—for a comprehensive study and the formulation of a clear and definite northern policy.

Just where are we going in the north? Are we moving in the right direction? What should be the order of priority in northern development?

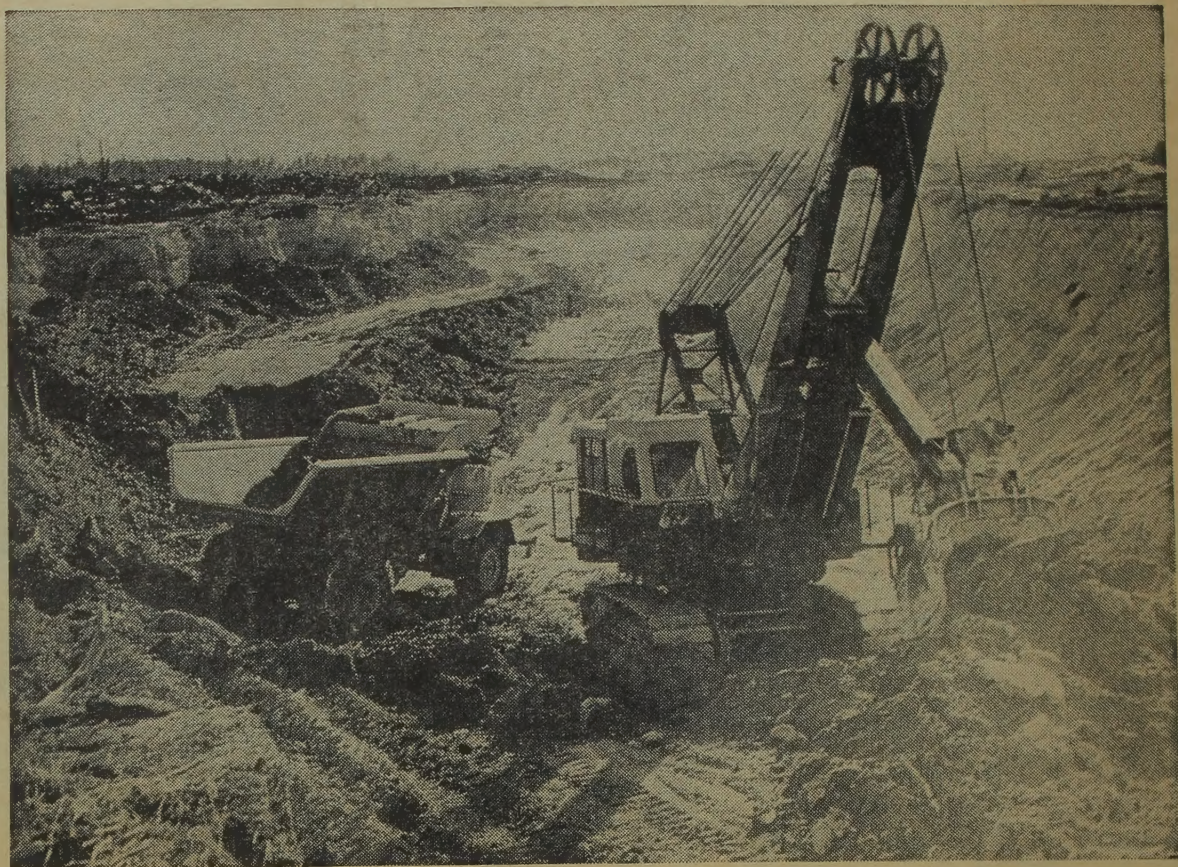
All too often in the past 20 years—since Canada started paying attention to the north—objectives have been blurred, the policy piecemeal. Time and money have been wasted, opportunities lost.

Examples, both large and small, are easy to find.

Inuvik is a large one. Just how worthwhile and necessary was the investment of \$35,000,000 to \$40,000,000 in this civil service centre, considering the existing facilities at Aklavik and the need for more concrete development projects like roads and airstrips?

On the relatively small side are two abattoirs in Wood Buffalo National Park. While many Eskimos are still living in the most primitive of dwellings the government spends \$500,000 for two buffalo slaughterhouses that are used for less than two months each year.

As for more current matters, there is considerable doubt that



DIGGING FOR RICHES

... lead-zinc mining at the Pine Point site

the proposed division of the N.W.T. really should rank as a prime objective in the north at this particular time. All kinds of agonizing social problems are crying for solution.

Government and business (particularly the mining in-

dustry) should join forces to conduct the study—and later to plan policy—since they work more closely together in the north than in any other part of the country.

They would look into all aspects—economic, social, po-

litical—and then map out a route for the way ahead.

This is the way to get priorities straight, to determine where the best opportunities lie and to see problems as they fit into the overall picture.

And, hopefully, it is the way

to cut down on blunders and end the drift that so often seems to characterize northern policy.

For as things stand now, the Last Frontier is in danger of becoming the lost frontier.

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MAKESHIFT SHACKS SUPPLANT IGLOO

... squalid native dwellings enigma for government

'Breakthrough' Still To Come

August 21, 1964

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To some extent the north is just going to have to wait and hope—wait until world demand forces exploration and development of minerals beyond the 60th parallel, and hope that in the meantime substitute products are not perfected.

WORLD MARKETS

The pace could be speeded up by any disruption in world markets. Arctic islands oil exploration, for example, could be pushed if political upheavals occur in the Middle East and threaten European supplies.

Meantime the federal government can only go so far in helping make northern minerals competitive in the outside markets.

How often can it put out \$97,000,000 for a single mine, as it is doing for the Pine Point development? (The railway to Pine Point, while a big project, will not open very much of the N.W.T. Only the Great Slave Lake region will feel any significant impact from the first steel to cross the border—only a few thousand square miles out of the 1,500,000 square miles that make up the north.)

While economic development lags, the north will continue to rely heavily on the federal government to help pay the costs of education, health, welfare and administration.

And the north's affairs will continue to be run from a centre 1,000 miles south of the 60th parallel and by civil servants who have never lived in the country they are supposed to be looking after.

NEW LOOK

Now is the time for a new, long and hard look at the north—for a comprehensive study and the formulation of a clear and definite northern policy.

Just where are we going in the north? Are we moving in the right direction? What should be the order of priority in northern development?

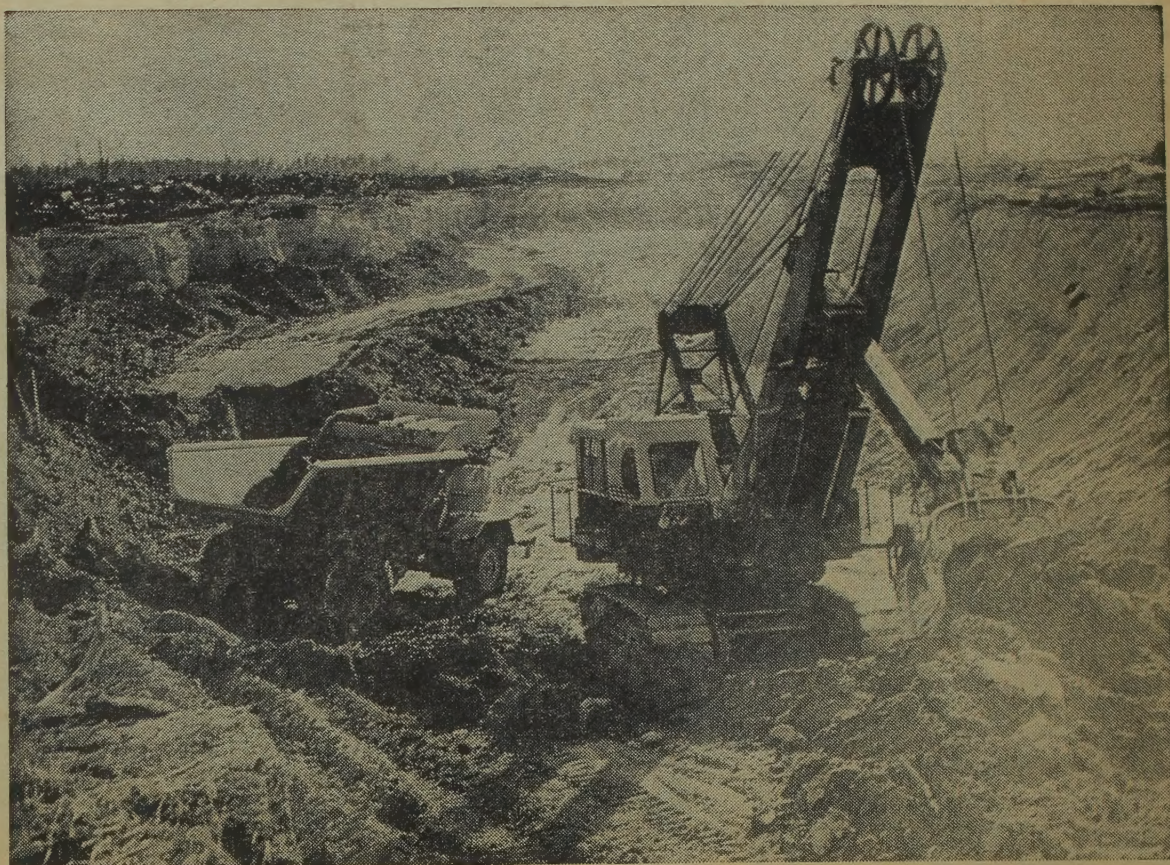
All too often in the past 20 years—since Canada started paying attention to the north—objectives have been blurred, the policy piecemeal. Time and money have been wasted, opportunities lost.

Examples, both large and small, are easy to find.

Inuvik is a large one. Just how worthwhile and necessary was the investment of \$35,000,000 to \$40,000,000 in this civil service centre, considering the existing facilities at Aklavik and the need for more concrete development projects like roads and airstrips?

On the relatively small side are two abattoirs in Wood Buffalo National Park. While many Eskimos are still living in the most primitive of dwellings the government spends \$500,000 for two buffalo slaughterhouses that are used for less than two months each year.

As for more current matters, there is considerable doubt that



DIGGING FOR RICHES

... lead-zinc mining at the Pine Point site

the proposed division of the N.W.T. really should rank as a prime objective in the north at this particular time. All kinds of agonizing social problems are crying for solution.

Government and business (particularly the mining in-

dustry) should join forces to conduct the study—and later to plan policy—since they work more closely together in the north than in any other part of the country.

They would look into all aspects—economic, social, po-

litical—and then map out a route for the way ahead.

This is the way to get priorities straight, to determine where the best opportunities lie and to see problems as they fit into the overall picture.

And, hopefully, it is the way

to cut down on blunders and end the drift that so often seems to characterize northern policy.

For as things stand now, the Last Frontier is in danger of becoming the lost frontier.

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MAKESHIFT SHACKS SUPPLANT IGLOO

... squalid native dwellings enigma for government